

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /145 W
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R 211053 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1159

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17065

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, MR, FR

SUBJECT: CHILL IN FRANCO- MAURITANIAN RELATIONS

REF: NOUAAKCHOTT 519

1. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND MAURITANIA ARE STRAINED. GOF HAS DELAYED NAMING NEW AMBASSADOR TO REBUKE GIRM FOR DISCOURTESY TO AMBASSADOR DUFOUR ON DEANSHIP ISSUE. CHILL IN RELATIONS, HOWEVER, GOES CONSIDERABLY FURTHER AND RELATES TO ENTIRE RANGE OF RELATIONS. GOF UNDER TOUGH NEW SECRETARY FOR COOPERATION DENIAU OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT INTEND TO BE FORTHCOMING ON ECONOMIC AND AID MATTERS, AND GIRM HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY PUT ON NOTICE THAT HAVING MADE ITS BED, IT MUST LIE IN IT. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT GOF IS BEHIND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MIFERMA AND GIRM, THOUGH GIVEN ALPHAND INVOLVEMENT IT IS ALTOGETHER POSSIBLE.

2. ON MORE SERIOUS QUESTION OF FRENCH ENCOURAGEMENT OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, WE ARE MORE SKEPTICAL. AHMAD BABA MISKE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PLOTTING AGAINST REGIME FROM PARIS, AS NUMEROUS OTHER FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN GROUPS IN FRANCE ARE PLOTTING AGAINST THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. WHILE FRENCH HAVE TRIED TO KEEP AN EYE ON SUCH GROUPS, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE THEY ARE
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NOT CURRENTLY USING THEM TO BRING ABOUT DOWNFALL OF ANY PARTICULAR
REGIME, INCLUDING THAT OF OULD DADDAH. INDEED, GOF PROBABLY
REGARDS OULD DADDAH AS BEST BET FOR RESIDUAL FRENCH INTERESTS AND
HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT ANYONE WHO MIGHT REPLACE HIM WOULD BE
MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO FRANCE.

3. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL
REPORT ANY EVIDENCE OF FRENCH BEHIND- THE- SCENES
ACTIONS AGAINST GIRM. GDS
IRWIN

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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